



**STATE OF INDIANA
Department of Correction**

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**IDOC COMMISSIONER LEMMON STATEMENT ON HENRYVILLE
CORRECTIONAL FACILITY CLOSURE**

When the Indiana Department of Correction (IDOC) announced the closure of the Henryville minimum security facility, it followed detailed and deliberate considerations that took into account costs, correctional employees and nearby communities.

There are 36 IDOC employees who work at Henryville Correctional Facility; some of whom have been with IDOC for 25 years. When it comes to maintaining security within any correctional facility, staff are by far the most valuable asset we possess and their safety and retention is among the Department's highest priorities.

These dedicated law enforcement officers are the first line of defense against offender escapes and the last signpost to an offender's successful reentry into society. Twenty-four hours a day, and with offender/staff ratios at or greater than 10:1, these dedicated men and women keep the public safe by guarding, supervising and at times even counseling convicted felons. It should be noted that this is all done armed with nothing more than a commanding presence, a cool head and specialized training.

It was for these reasons that we laid out detailed plans specifically designed to abate any worries our staff might have during this understandably trying process. To answer any questions and mitigate any concerns, senior IDOC officials along with representatives from the State Personnel Department met with staff to assist them in crafting their future plans and to ensure this transition would be done with understanding, compassion and transparency. We informed our employees about the need and rationale to consolidate and reorganize our minimum security facilities following recent legislation that diverts Level 6 felons from state prisons to county jails and a resulting decrease in the number of offenders in the state prison system.

Each employee was presented options, including continuing his or her career with the IDOC at one of three neighboring correctional facilities located in Madison, Branchville or Edinburgh; or transitioning into a new career opportunity at another state agency. This one-on-one approach was crucial to abating staff concerns during this time as well as providing a tangible example of our commitment to our employees. While this move will save Indiana taxpayers \$2.25 million, it will also ensure that anyone who wants to maintain employment with the state of Indiana will be able to do so.

-Commissioner Bruce Lemmon, Indiana Department of Correction

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